

California Field Crop Review



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COTTON: Upland cotton production in California is forecast at 2.20 million bales, 8 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is expected to total 875 thousand acres, 12 percent below last year. The yield is forecast at 1,207 pounds per acre, up 5 percent from 1996. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 440 thousand bales, 17 percent above last year's crop. The 184 thousand acres for harvest are 12 percent above last year.

Upland cotton production in the U.S. is forecast at 17.9 million bales, up 4 percent from the August forecast, but 3 percent below 1996. The dryland crop in the Plains of Texas received rain during the month, and Texas' production increased 400 thousand bales. Cotton conditions also improved in Arkansas and Mississippi, which showed increases of 110 and 80.0 thousand bales, respectively. Yields are expected to be 651 pounds per acre, 50 pounds below last year, while harvested acreage is up 5 percent. American Pima cotton production is forecast at 544 thousand bales, up 3 percent from 1996, but down 10.0 thousand bales from August. The yield per acre is expected to be 1,049 pounds, down 26 pounds from the August forecast, but 58 pounds above last year.

FIELD CROPS: Acreage, Yield and Production, California and United States, 1996-97

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997	Unit	1996	Forecast 1997
	-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --	
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	550.0	380.0	Tons	2.07	2.25	Tons	1,138.5	855.0
Wheat, Durum <u>a/</u>	138.0	130.0	Tons	3.00	2.85	Tons	414.0	370.5
Oats <u>a/</u>	30.0	30.0	Tons	1.20	1.28	Tons	36.0	38.4
Barley <u>a/</u>	220.0	180.0	Tons	1.44	1.56	Tons	316.8	280.8
Corn for Grain	220.0	260.0	Tons	4.48	4.62	Tons	985.6	1,201.2
Rice, All	500.0	513.0	Cwt.	74.90	82.00	Cwt.	37,459.0	42,066.0
Long	5.0	6.0	Cwt.	72.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	360.0	<u>b/</u>
Medium	482.0	489.0	Cwt.	75.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	36,150.0	<u>b/</u>
Short	13.0	18.0	Cwt.	73.00	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	949.0	<u>b/</u>
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	995.0	875.0	Lbs.	1,153.00	1,207.00	Bales	2,390.0	2,200.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	164.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,098.00	1,148.00	Bales	375.0	440.0
Sugar Beets	82.0	102.0	Tons	29.50	28.00	Tons	2,419.0	2,856.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>a/</u>	123.0	125.0	Cwt.	19.00	20.00	Cwt.	2,337.0	2,500.0
Hay, All <u>a/</u>	1,450.0	1,490.0	Tons	5.52	5.57	Tons	8,008.0	8,298.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>a/</u>	940.0	970.0	Tons	7.00	7.00	Tons	6,580.0	6,790.0
Other Hay <u>a/</u>	510.0	520.0	Tons	2.80	2.90	Tons	1,428.0	1,508.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>a/</u>	39,709.0	41,583.0	Tons	1.12	1.34	Tons	44,341.4	55,664.2
Wheat, Durum	3,546.0	3,208.0	Tons	0.98	0.84	Tons	3,475.2	2,704.7
Oats <u>a/</u>	2,687.0	3,222.0	Tons	0.92	0.93	Tons	2,483.6	2,994.0
Barley	6,787.0	6,397.0	Tons	1.40	1.42	Tons	9,524.4	9,105.5
Corn for Grain	73,147.0	74,049.0	Tons	3.56	3.51	Tons	260,216.2	259,494.3
Rice, All	2,799.0	3,037.0	Cwt.	61.21	59.75	Cwt.	171,321.0	181,455.0
Long <u>d/</u>	1,964.0	2,259.0	Cwt.	57.77	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	113,462.0	126,870.0
Medium <u>d/</u>	820.0	758.0	Cwt.	69.26	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	56,790.0	53,029.0
Short <u>d/</u>	15.0	20.0	Cwt.	71.27	<u>b/</u>	Cwt.	1,069.0	1,556.0
Cotton, Upland <u>c/</u>	12,612.2	13,187.5	Lbs.	701.00	651.00	Bales	18,413.5	17,873.5
Cotton, American-Pima <u>c/</u>	255.9	249.0	Lbs.	991.00	1,049.00	Bales	528.5	544.0
Sugar Beets	1,323.3	1,433.0	Tons	20.20	20.50	Tons	26,680.0	29,358.0
Beans, Dry Edible <u>a/</u>	1,717.7	1,750.1	Cwt.	15.92	16.66	Cwt.	27,354.0	29,163.0
Hay, All <u>a/</u>	61,029.0	60,807.0	Tons	2.45	2.53	Tons	149,457.0	153,886.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>a/</u>	24,291.0	23,556.0	Tons	3.27	3.30	Tons	79,377.0	77,817.0
Other Hay <u>a/</u>	36,738.0	37,251.0	Tons	1.91	2.04	Tons	70,080.0	76,069.0

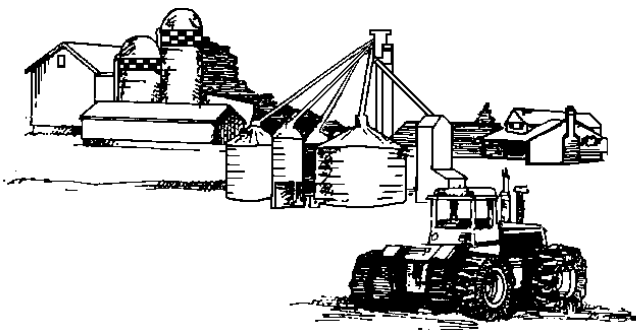
a/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. b/ To be released January 1998. c/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net weight bales. d/ Rice class production forecasts for 1998 are based on five-year average of class percentages.

SUGAR BEETS: California sugar beet production is forecast at 2.86 million tons, up 18 percent from the 1996 crop. Acreage for harvest, at 102 thousand, is up 24 percent, while yields are expected to be down 5 percent from last year.

U.S. sugar beet production is forecast at 29.4 million tons, up 10 percent from the 1996 crop. The increase is due to an 8 percent increase in harvested acreage, with yields expected to be up only 1 percent from last year.

CORN: California's 1997 corn for grain production is forecast at 1.20 million tons, 22 percent above last year. The forecast yield, at 4.62 tons per acre, is up 3 percent from last year, and harvested acreage is up 18 percent.

Nationally, corn for grain production is forecast at 260 million tons, virtually unchanged from the 1996 crop. The average yield is forecast at 3.51 tons per acre.



RICE: California's 1997 rice crop forecast, at 42.1 million cwt., is 12 percent above 1996. The 513 thousand acres for harvest are 3 percent above last year. The yield is forecast at 8,200 pounds per acre, up 9 percent from last year.

The 1997 U.S. rice production is forecast at 181 million cwt., 6 percent above 1996. The larger 1997 crop is the result of an 8 percent increase in harvested acreage, which was partially offset by a 2 percent decrease in expected yields.

OFF FARM RICE STOCKS

Milled rice stocks stored in California mills and warehouses on August 1, 1997 totaled 701 thousand cwt., down 40 percent from the 1.17 million cwt. stored a year earlier. Whole kernels accounted for 75 percent of the total milled rice in storage.

Nationally, milled rice stocks in all positions on August 1 totaled 3.82 million cwt., 6 percent above last year.

California **rough rice stocks** in all positions on August 1 totaled 7.86 million cwt. This was 24 percent below the 10.4 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Warehouses accounted for 7.48 million cwt., with the remainder in mill storage.

Nationally, rough rice stocks in all positions on August 1 totaled 21.8 million cwt., 9 percent above last year.

CALIFORNIA OFF-FARM ROUGH RICE STOCKS

Month	Season		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --		
October 1 <u>a/</u>	2,469	4,927	4,647
December 1	33,332	31,179	35,031
March 1	25,390	23,445	20,377
August 1	10,173	10,261	7,776

a/ Small amount of on-farm stocks included in off-farm total.
May include some carryover from previous season.

ROUGH AND MILLED RICE STOCKS IN ALL POSITIONS

Type of Rice	CALIFORNIA		UNITED STATES	
	Aug. 1, 1996	Aug. 1, 1997	Aug. 1, 1996	Aug. 1, 1997
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --			
ROUGH RICE TOTAL	10,361	7,855	19,971	21,793
Long Grain	127	<u>a/</u>	7,418	10,839
Medium Grain	9,704	7,551	12,022	10,723
Short Grain	530	<u>a/</u>	531	231
MILLED RICE TOTAL	1,170	701	3,614	3,819
Whole Kernels Total	1,010	527	3,164	3,134
Long Grain	32	15	1,927	2,312
Medium Grain	932	478	1,187	788
Short Grain	46	34	50	34
Broken Kernels Total	160	174	450	685
Second Heads <u>b/</u>	135	158	329	467
Screenings	---	---	14	13
Brewers	25	16	107	205

a/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual reports.
b/ California figure includes screenings.

PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS -AUGUST 1997

Prices received by California farmers at mid-August were above July for all potatoes, summer potatoes, and hay other than alfalfa. Wheat, dry edible beans, all hay, alfalfa hay, and Upland cotton lint were below previous month's level. The mid-August barley price was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, all potatoes, summer potatoes, and all types of hay. Wheat and Upland cotton lint were below August 1996's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 107 based on 1990-92 = 100, unchanged from July. Price increases from July for wheat, lettuce, milk, and peaches more than offset price decreases for hogs, soybeans, strawberries, and cauliflower. However, the seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Lower relative seasonal marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers more than offset the effect of relatively higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn resulting in no change in the overall index.

Compared with August 1996, the All Farm Products Index was 10 points (8.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1996 for corn, milk, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price increases for calves, cattle, hay, and lemons.

The August All Crops Index, at 116, was up 1.8 percent from July, but 13 percent below August 1996. From July, price increases for food grains and vegetables more than offset price decreases for soybeans and potatoes.

The August Food Grains Index, at 120, was up 8.1 percent from the previous month, but 22 percent below August 1996. The August all wheat price, at \$5.82 per cwt., was up 44 cents from July, but \$1.80 below the August 1996 price.

The August Feed Grains & Hay Index was 114, up 0.9 percent from last month, but 31 percent below August 1996. The corn price, at \$4.41 per cwt., was up 7 cents from July, but was \$3.27 below the August 1996 price. The all hay price, at \$101.00 per ton, was up \$2.60 from July.

The August Potatoes and Dry Beans Index, at 101, was down 9 percent from July and 4.7 percent below August 1996. The August potato price, at \$5.86 per cwt., was down 48 cents from July, but 7 cents per cwt. above August 1996.

FARM PRICES: Average price received by farmers a/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		August 1996	July 1997	Aug. 15, 1997	August 1996	July 1997	Aug. 15, 1997
----- Dollars -----							
Corn <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	7.68	4.34	4.41
Wheat <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	7.85	6.18	5.77	7.62	5.38	5.82
Oats <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.25	5.25	5.09
Barley <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	<u>c/</u>	6.23	4.73	4.88
Sorghum Grain <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	6.21	3.95	4.06
Rice <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.99	10.00	9.94
Dry Edible Beans <u>b/</u>	Cwt.	36.90	39.10	37.80	26.90	22.70	20.20
All Potatoes <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	11.00	9.90	12.20	5.79	6.34	5.86
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	9.45	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	11.00	11.90	12.20	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	---	4.55	---	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	100.00	120.00	118.00	92.30	98.40	101.00
Alfalfa Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	101.00	121.00	119.00	95.60	106.00	106.00
Other Hay, Baled <u>b/</u>	Ton	82.00	97.00	101.00	76.90	72.40	74.70
Upland Cotton Lint <u>b/</u>	Lb.	0.770	0.744	0.729	0.719	0.671	0.679
Cottonseed	Ton	---	---	---	118.00	---	112.00

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Aug. 1996	July 1997	Aug. 1997	Aug. 1996	July 1997	Aug. 1997
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	745	678	683	117	107	107
All Crops	655	563	575	133	114	116
Food Grains	487	352 <u>e/</u>	381	153	111 <u>e/</u>	120
Feed Grains and Hay	592	402 <u>e/</u>	407	166	113	114
Cotton	608	567 <u>e/</u>	574	119	111 <u>e/</u>	112
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	535	561 <u>e/</u>	513	106	111 <u>e/</u>	101
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates <u>f/</u>	1,515	1,525 <u>e/</u>	1,516	115	116 <u>e/</u>	116
Parity Ratio <u>g/</u>	49	44	45	103	92 <u>e/</u>	92

a/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. b/ Previous month revised to monthly average. c/ Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. d/ Monthly average. e/ Revised. f/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. g/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

SUMMER POTATO PRODUCTION

California's 1997 summer potato production is expected to be 2.12 million cwt., up 2 percent from last year's production. Acreage for harvest is up by 2 percent, while yields are expected to average 360.0 cwt. per acre, the same as for 1996. Summer potato harvest was essentially complete by the end of August. Growers had a generally favorable growing season with few disease or pest problems to damage the crop.

The U.S. production of summer potatoes is forecast at 17.3 million cwt. for 1997, up 5 percent from the July forecast, but 11 percent below a year ago. Harvested area is estimated at 66.0 thousand acres, 12 percent below last year and 7 percent below two years ago. The average yield of 262 cwt. per acre gained 10 cwt. from the July report on the strength of better yields in the Midwest and is 1 cwt. above last year.

Yields are better than last year in most of the Midwest and Central states. Colorado and Nebraska yields are record highs, although Colorado harvest was interrupted in August by heavy rains. Texas' yields are higher than anticipated in July. Harvest in Missouri is nearly finished, with yields above last year.

Dry weather cut yields along the Central Atlantic Coast. New Jersey and Delaware yields dropped 20 cwt. from last year. Virginia yields fell 45 cwt. as harvest came early and from mostly dry soils. Maryland yields increased, however, with extensive use of irrigation. Alabama yields varied with the timing of showers during the growing season.

SUMMER POTATO ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 1/

State	Harvested Acres		Yield		Production		
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	- 1,000 Acres -		--- Cwt. ---		--- 1,000 Cwt. ---		
Alabama	6.7	5.9	150	150	1,139	1,005	885
California	5.8	5.9	360	360	1,760	2,088	2,124
Colorado	9.8	7.6	345	350	2,776	3,381	2,660
Delaware	5.2	4.2	240	220	1,475	1,248	924
Illinois	6.0	4.6	275	280	1,485	1,650	1,288
Iowa <u>2/</u>	1.5	1.2	210	190	240	315	228
Maryland <u>2/</u>	2.6	3.4	215	260	360	559	884
Missouri	7.1	5.8	230	250	1,587	1,633	1,450
Nebraska	5.5	4.3	270	350	1,254	1,485	1,505
New Jersey	2.5	2.3	265	245	702	663	564
New Mexico	3.9	4.4	360	320	1,344	1,404	1,408
North Carolina <u>2/</u>	1.2	1.2	90	95	124	108	114
Texas	9.5	7.7	240	245	1,645	2,280	1,887
Virginia	7.5	7.5	225	180	2,040	1,688	1,350
TOTAL	74.8	66.0	261	262	17,931	19,507	17,271

1/ Revised 1996 figures. 2/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.